



September 23, 2014

RE: Bay City Support of Senate Bill 281

Honorable Tom Casperson
Chairman, Committee on Transportation

The City of Bay City is here today to support the enactment of Senate Bill No. 281 which would amend 1951 Public Act 51. Bay City presently has four moveable bridges located within the City Corporate limits. Two bridges are owned and operated by the State of Michigan and the remaining two moveable bridges are owned and operated by the City of Bay City. The City's annual budget to operate and maintain these two moveable bridges is approximately \$500,000. These funds come directly from the City Street Fund which is funded by Act 51 appropriations which means that each year the City's Street maintenance program is decreased by this dollar amount.

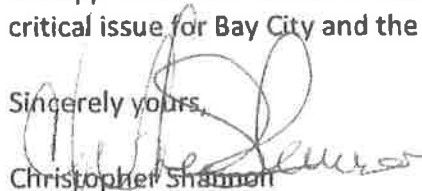
The State of Michigan, the Cities and the Counties streets have deteriorated over the past number years due to strict budget constraints. However, in Bay City the deterioration of our City Streets has been even more significant since we are forced to allocate approximately \$500,000 of our State Road fund for the annual operations and maintenance of our two moveable bridges.

The two City moveable bridges daily carries thousands of motorists and truck traffic most of which do not reside within our corporate limits. Yet the City's annual budget is required to pay 100% of the ongoing operating and maintenance expenses for these two bridges.

From a stand point of fairness to the residents and businesses in Bay City we are strongly recommending that Senate Bill No 281 (as amended) be approved by committee. Furthermore, it is recommended that the amended Senate bill provide for a more detailed definition of what operational costs include.

We appreciate the efforts of Senator Green and the Transportation Committee to address this critical issue for Bay City and the entire State of Michigan.

Sincerely yours,


Christopher Shannon
Mayor


Richard M. Finn
City Manager